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of the growth force of the individual or the force of gravitation. As the normal laws of growth of the individual are thwarted and diverted by external conditions, so undoubtedly a greater or less modification of the course of evolution has been produced by the conditions of environment.

"When we attempt to explain the course of evolution by tracing it backward from the differentiated, adjusted organisms to its ancestors, it is natural to place great importance upon the fact of the accomplished adjustment of the individual to its particular environment; but when the point of views is reversed and the organism is traced from the earlier geological periods through the ages down to the present time, the conviction becomes impressed upon the student that environmental conditions are but the medium through which the organic evolution has been determinately ploughing its way." S. W.

Canadian Fossil Insects. By S. H. SCUDDER. Contributions to Canadian Palæontology, Vol. II., Part. I (1895).

This publication includes three different papers by Prof. Scudder.

1. *The Tertiary Hemiptera of British Columbia.* Descriptions are given of nineteen species from three different localities—Quesnel on the Fraser, the north fork of the Similkameen River and Nine Mile Creek flowing into Whipsaw Creek, a tributary of the Similkameen. Dr. Dawson considers the two latter localities to be portions of a single ancient lake, so only two basins are concerned. The two basins afford specimens of very different character and may prove to represent different stages in the Tertiary. The age of the beds is probably as old as the Oligocene.

The great diversity of this ancient insect fauna may be judged from the fact that in nearly every case each specimen must be referred to a distinct species, and in only one case can two species be referred to the same genus. The most striking feature of the fauna is the large size of the individuals which compose it.

2. *The Coleoptera hitherto found fossil in Canada.* Fossil Coleoptera have been found in seven distinct localities at three very different horizons, viz., Post-Pliocene, thirty-two species, lower Tertiary, fourteen species, and Cretaceous, one species.

The most interesting fauna is that from the inter-glacial deposits of

Scarboro' Heights, near Toronto where twenty-nine species have been found. Not one of these can be referred to existing species. The nearest allies of several are to be sought in the Lake Superior and Hudson Bay region, but the nearest allies of the larger part of them are to be found in the general district where the deposits occur. In no single instance have any special affinities been found with any characteristically southern form, though several are most nearly allied to species found there as well as in the north. On the whole the fauna has a boreal aspect, though by no means so decidedly boreal as one would anticipate under the circumstances.

3. *Notes upon Myriapods and Arachnids found in Sigillarian stumps in the Nova Scotia coal field.* Nearly fifty years ago Sir J. W. Dawson and Sir Chas. Lyell first called attention to this unique land fauna of Carboniferous time. From time to time additional species of Articulates, Mollusks and Vertebrates have been discovered and described by Sir J. W. Dawson. The present paper by Professor Scudder gives notes and descriptions of ten species of myriapods and arachnids, some of which are new.

S. W.